

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

DATE: AUG. 29, 2014
TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
FROM: SCOTT H. NEAL, CITY MANAGER
RE: FRIDAY REPORT FOR AUG. 29, 2014

FRIDAY REPORT



1. Beacon Project – At the Aug. 13 meeting, the Planning Commission recommended preliminary approval of a rezoning to PUD for Beacon Interfaith Housing to redevelop 3330 W. 66th St. into 39 units of housing for young adults who have experienced homelessness. The Commission also made a recommendation to the City Council to consider a Comprehensive Plan Amendment to incorporate guidelines into the Plan to allow the project. City Council is scheduled to consider the request at the Sept. 2 meeting.
2. Neighborhood Association Update – Chowen Park will have their initial neighborhood organizing meeting Sept. 17. The Normandale Park neighborhood will follow with an organizing meeting Sept. 24. In addition, staff have met with potential organizers from the neighborhoods of Lake Edina, Creek Knoll and Minnehaha Woods.
3. France Avenue Corridor Improvement Project – Stages 1 & 2 of the project are complete, except for landscaping and lighting improvements. Stage 3 from 76th Street to Hazelton Road is currently under construction. Staff and consultants will do a presentation for Council at the Sept. 2 Council meeting about the design and appearance of the project.
4. Grandview RFI – The four finalists in the Grandview RFI process have been scheduled for interviews with the City Council Sept. 2 starting at 4 p.m. in the Community Room. The selection process has been designed for Council to complete the interviews on Sept. 2 and to make a selection decision on Sept. 16.
5. Employee News – On Sept. 5, Eric Roggeman will begin his new duties as our Finance Director. Eric was hired as the Assistant Finance Director for the City of Edina April 4, 2005. Eric is a graduate of St. John's University and prior to working for the City of Edina he was an Accountant for the City of Burnsville and a Senior Auditor for KPMG LLP and the Office of the Legislative Auditor. Kyle Sawyer was hired in 2011 as an Accountant for the City of Edina and was recently promoted to the position of Assistant Finance Director. Kyle graduated from the University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire with a bachelor's degree in Accounting and Finance. Kyle came to the City of Edina from KDU, Ltd. where he was a Government Audit Senior Accountant. Full-time 911 Dispatcher Christopher Van Dam started work Aug. 25. He comes to us with eight years of dispatching experience with Hennepin County. Lead Dispatcher Tony Martin, along with Lieutenants Tom Draper and Brian Tholen participated in the Cold Water Challenge for the Officer Down Memorial Aug. 19. City and department employees dumped buckets of ice water over their heads in exchange for a donation to the Officer Down Memorial.

6. Communications Awards – The City of Edina has been nominated for two Emmys by the Upper Midwest Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences. The City of Edina received nominations for “Agenda: Edina” in the “Politics/Government – Program” category and “Public Art Profiles” in the “Interstitial” category. Winners will be announced Sept. 13. The Communications & Technology Services Department is a finalist for six national awards from the City-County Communications & Marketing Association (3CMA). The City will receive awards for “Agenda: Edina;” “Beyond the Badge;” “Enterprise Edina;” the new Edina Liquor logo for the tagline “Where Profits Get Poured Back Into the Community;” a bike safety video and the employee extranet, “Edinet.” First-, second- and third-place awards will be announced Sept. 4 during 3CMA’s annual conference.
7. Planning Commission Update – The Planning Commission held a productive work session this week with City and Watershed District staff to discuss regulatory procedures and processes impacting residential redevelopment projects. Staff from the City’s Engineering, Building and Planning divisions explained the building permitting process from the time of a demolition permit to final certificate of occupancy. Staff from the Nine Mile Creek and Minnehaha Creek Watershed districts explained their process and procedures.
8. Police Security – The I.T. Division recently began implementing “AnyConnect” in our Police vehicles. When complete, this project will bring our Police users into compliance with CJIS and NCIC Security Policies requiring two-factor authentication. The purpose of two-factor authentication is to eliminate generic users and passwords, thereby increasing security to sensitive information. The process involves uninstalling our current connectivity program and installing AnyConnect on the laptops. Each user is issued a token that, when pressed, displays a numeric code that accompanies their individual PIN and becomes the “password” to log into the secure network for that particular session. No one will be allowed mobile access to the secured network without a PIN known only by them and the token which authenticates against their user name. The second phase of this project will be implemented in the next few weeks and will include all remaining officers, detectives, ACO/CSOs and Reserves.
9. Aquatic Center – Another safe, fun season has come to a close at the Aquatic Center. Mechanically and operationally it was a very smooth summer, with no major breakdowns in amenities or equipment. Although the final numbers are still being tallied, the wet, cool weather did have an impact on daily admissions and concessions. Here are some interesting statistics: 83 teenagers and young adults were hired as seasonal staff. There were 38 lifeguard water rescues, none serious. 3,392 season pass packages were sold to families and individuals. There were only two days above 90 degrees. We had 108 group visits. Sales of popular new concession items included 1,143 Choco-Tacos, 1,381 Malt Cups, 3,988 Island Oasis smoothies (freshly made and all natural) and 2,681 slices of pizza. Seasonal closing procedures are underway and will be complete Sept. 5.
10. Edinborough Park Pool – An Ultraviolet Light Disinfection System was installed this week at the Edinborough Park Pool. The cost of the UV filter and installation was covered by the Edina Swim Club. The City is responsible for the cost of the electrical installation. The UV system will eliminate odors and irritants associated with the increased usage of the pool. It will also improve the air quality, resulting in a more enjoyable experience for everyone using the pool. A by-pass was added to the filtration system in 2013, so the pool will not have to be closed to during this upgrade. The equipment will be fully functioning by the time the Edina Swim Club resumes their practices Sept. 8.